

## Selah City Council Retreat

Friday, September 15, 2017

8:30am — 4:40pm

Yakima Convention Center

### A. Call to Order & Roll

Members Present: Mayor Raymond; Paul Overby; John Tierney; Roy Sample; Laura Ritchie; Roger Bell; Diane Underwood; Russell Carlson

Staff Present: Donald Wayman, City Administrator; Monica Lake, Executive Assistant

Mayor Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 1. Tutorial on the Purpose of a City Council Meeting

City Attorney Noe provided a handout and discussed the topic of Council meetings, noting that discussion needs to remain focused on topic, with no interjections from the public.

City Administrator Wayman remarked that Council needs to understand the process, as he feels there is a lack of trust shown in the work done by staff, the Planning Commission and the Hearing Examiner.

Discussion followed topics such as the need for Council Members to read the material provided in their packets, the need to educate those attending meetings dealing with hot button issues, healthy discussion and the need to communicate with staff outside Council Meetings, educating the public either during meetings or looking for an alternate opportunity to do so, public commentary as an optional item on the agenda per Council's wishes, and the need to have specific findings that are supportable and defensible if Council chooses not to follow a recommendation by the Hearing Examiner or Planning Commission.

#### 2. Selah Transit Options

City Administrator Wayman addressed the matter of the City's Interlocal Agreement with Yakima Transit, resistance to modifying the route to better serve the citizens of Selah, and looking at other options to provide a service to the citizens.

Ms. Dunbar of Medstar gave a brief presentation about her company, which also provides transit for Union Gap and the Dial-A-Ride service, outlining the technology they would provide to Selah as part of a pilot program, along with having branding and representation on transportation.

Discussion followed on the current transit budget, whether to reduce the three-tenths of a percent collected, the benefits of changing companies, clarification regarding bus stops, and the contractual requirement to notify the current provider that they are seeking other services.

Consensus to provide an AIS at the next Council Meeting for RFPs for bus service, to commence six months from November 1.

**Council took a ten minute recess.**

### 3. Centennial Activities

Recreation Manager Mullen provided Council with a handout and discussed the ideas presented, saying that the first thing they need to do is form a Centennial Planning Committee to oversee everything.

Suggestions were solicited from both Council and staff, to include flags and posters, working with both the Selah Downtown Association and Selah Chamber of Commerce, doing something permanent to mark the occasion such as an amphitheater or another useful structure, have a lot of sub-committees to get as many people as possible involved, make Community Days a centennial event, do something such as incorporating the establishment of Selah into an entry sign, putting up a mural about the history of Selah, putting in a new water feature, utilizing existing committees rather than creating new ones, putting in a new playground set at Wixson Park, looking for nostalgic photos recognizing businesses that are a hundred years old, recognizing Playland park as the oldest park in Selah, remembering our agricultural heritage, consider having something for kids, something for young adults and for the older generation, do an educational effort possibly with the school district, get major community stakeholders together and put a timeline in place by June 2018, set up walking tours of historic monuments, combine activities during the Centennial celebration, create a budget for the celebration, have someone on the executive committee to discuss the long-term ramifications of something created to mark the occasion, get oral histories from older folks to build an archive, approach the Lince family about photos and the History of Selah book, and have things people can purchase such as hats, magnets, postcards, coins, and shirt.

**Council took a five minute recess.**

### 4. Future Civic Center Options

City Administrator Wayman opened the discussion, going around the table to solicit opinions from each Council Member. Discussion included the need to pave the graveled section of the parking lot, funding the maintenance for the current structure, looking at acquiring the whole block as a long-term goal, incorporating the Civic Center into the subarea plan as a hub for the downtown area, looking into funding for the food and clothing banks as well as indoor seating for those waiting for transit, adding another outdoor barn area for multi-use, going forward with a plan for a new Civic Center, Police Station and City Hall when the Marudo debt is paid, the possibility of selling the land for commercial use, the history of the existing facility, and finding a fund source to maintain and save for the future.

**Council took a half hour recess.**

### 5. Signage

Council discussed signage for Volunteer Park and welcome to Selah signs. Discussion followed, with the majority agreeing to rename Volunteer Park to Mitchell Hatfield Park, and the trail inside named for Evan Mettie. No agreement was made regarding the welcome signs.

### 6. Marudo Debt Update

Clerk/Treasurer Novobielski handed out a sheet of information, saying that the last payment due date is December 31, 2022, but there would be enough money to satisfy the remaining debt service and pay back the reserve funds by July 2021. Council discussed whether to sunset at that time or to let the tax continue until the sunset and place the monies into reserve funds.

### 7. City Hall/ Police Station Facilities

City Administrator Wayman passed around photos of deficiencies in and around City Hall, requesting Council input on what they would like to do as far as upgrading the current facility. Discussion followed about topics such as how much to invest, with a consensus to do minimal maintenance aside from addressing safety issues, security at both City Hall and the Police Station, cleaning up the back area of boxes and other things piled there, and possibly doing a lime wash on the outside of City Hall.

**Council took a fifteen minute recess.**

8. Future Street and Sidewalk Improvements

Public Works Director Henne handed out a list of projects and reviewed them. A brief discussion followed on reclassifying certain roads, reconstruction of Park Avenue, congestion in the West Goodlander area, and shifting around priorities on the TIP.

9. The Future of water in Selah

Public Works Director Henne gave an explanation of the water situation and what can be done to reduce consumption, encouraging drought tolerant landscaping, acquiring additional water rights and how long the City has at the projected growth and consumption rates. A brief discussion followed.

10. Council Requests

Public Works Utility Supervisor Jones talked briefly about installation of the toys for Volunteer Park, with Council agreeing to an AIS at the next Council Meeting for an outside company to do the full installation.

Council Member Tierney brought up the matter of public versus private roads, and Council discussed a revisit of current Ordinances to require minimum standards for private roads that would meet those for public streets.

Council Member Carlson expressed his thoughts on the SPRSA lease and the leverage the City currently has versus what it will after a new levy passes. A brief discussion followed.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.